

## The Hijackers' Fate: 'You Can Run but You Can't Hide'

Following is a transcript of the news conference by President Reagan at the White House yesterday on the apprehension of the hijackers, as recorded by The New York Times:

### OPENING STATEMENT

Before making the announcement and the business that has brought me here, and knowing your great concern and not wanting you to lose any sleep at night, let me explain the patch on my nose. I figured you might ask. The doctor who I see, he practices here, since the first operation for skin cancer on my nose and felt that there was some additional work needed. So yesterday afternoon, when we came back to Chicago, I went over there in the White House to his doctor's office and he did the additional work and a biopsy revealed there were some cancer cells. And now I have a very small patch on my nose, a clean.

So, I listened to all the questions and comments regarding my thoughts on last night's events. I felt it might be helpful to take a moment here to make a comment, and then I'd ask But I'd like to be here to provide answers to all the questions that you may have.

The events of the past 24 hours reinforce the determination of all of those who share the privileges of freedom and liberty to stand together against the scourge of international terrorism. All civilized peoples welcome the apprehension of the terrorists responsible for the seizure of Achille Lauro and the brutal murder of Leon Klinghoffer.

### You Can't Hide!

The pursuit of justice is well served by this cooperative effort to insure that these terrorists are prosecuted and punished for their crimes. I want to point out the crucial role played by the Italian Government in bringing this operation to a successful and peaceful conclusion. Throughout, Prime Minister Craxi has been courageous in his insistence that those apprehended shall be subject to full due process of law. I want to express my gratitude that the Government of Egypt was able to end the crisis without additional loss of life — although I disagreed with their disposition of the terrorists. And, personally, I wish to thank President Bourgi for his right decision to refuse the entry of the fugitives.

Most of all, I am proud to be the



The New York Times / Paul Hossler

**AT THE WHITE HOUSE:** President Reagan responding to final question as he ended his news conference on the interception of plane carrying hijackers by U.S. Navy jets. With him were from left: Robert C. McFarlane, national security adviser; Karna Small, National Security Council press spokesman; a Secret Service agent; Edward Djerejian of the White House press office and Donald T. Regan, White House Chief of Staff.

Commander in Chief of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who deployed, supported and played the crucial role in the delivery of these terrorists to Italian authorities. They it, and the men and women of our Foreign Service and intelligence community performed and deployed some of the most difficult and delicate operations. They have my gratitude and I'm sure the gratitude of all of their countrymen.

These young Americans sent a message to terrorists everywhere, a message, "You can run but you can't hide."

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### Danger for Americans

Q. Mr. President, does your action last night increase the danger for other Americans being held hostage in the Middle East?

A. I don't believe so. I don't think that any increase in danger that could be made is due to the fact that as well as many other people from other countries — as was evidenced in the passenger list of that ship — are targets of continued terrorism.

#### Holding of Ship

Q. Mr. President, we were told you'd answer a few questions. If I might add, the Egyptians are apparently holding on to the Achille Lauro, the ship that the hijacking took place on. What do you know about that? Is there any tie to the fact that it is not landing the Egyptian plane? And what are you going to do to get that ship released? There apparently are still Americans on it.

A. I really don't know whether that is being held there for anything other than the fact that it is in port at this time. I don't know whether the other passengers who were away from that particular — from Port Said, they're waiting for them to come aboard or anything. Whatever might be true of that, I just don't

#### Attitude Toward Egypt

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us about your attitude now toward Egypt? And can you tell us whether

we've intercepted this plane without any help from Egyptian authorities, either the top officials of the Government or lower down, or whether, in fact, they did give us some sort of help.

A. Knowing that we could not risk a leak of any plans of this kind, this plan was ours. And the decision was made yesterday afternoon on Air

Force One coming back from Cairo.

Q. You're telling us, sir, if I may follow up, you're telling us that Egypt then didn't know we were going to do it and it didn't sanction it in any way?

A. Nor did the Italians know we were going to do it, as far as I'm aware.

#### Decision to Act

Q. Mr. President, you say the decision was made on Air Force One. Can you tell all of us exactly what you did on this yesterday? What went through your mind, what decisions exactly you made and what was it at stake.

A. I don't know whether a decision like that can ever be called easy, but I had completed faith in our forces. And the opportunity was there. And I believed that the mission was possible. And I didn't think there was any way that I could not approve a mission of that kind with what was at stake.

#### President's Resolve

Q. Mr. President, what kind of message do you think this sends regarding your resolve? You've been critical of your past record of not taking action against terrorists. How does the profile of what you think is possible, feasible, and what kind of message for the future?

A. Well, our problem in the past has been that we've been too afraid. Our problem has been in terrorist attacks that have taken place in the past. First of

all, in a number of them, such as the terrible tragedy with the marines, the perpetrators of the act went up with the bomb, they were suicidally.

Q. But were you faced with a situation where you were faced with a situation of your own?

A. I don't know whether it's possible to be struck by a bomb. Our problem has been in terrorist attacks that have taken place in the past. First of

all, in a number of them, such as the terrible tragedy with the marines, the perpetrators of the act went up with the bomb, they were suicidally.

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all, in a number of them, such as the terrible tragedy with the marines, the perpetrators of the act went up with the bomb, they were suicidally.

Q. How do you retaliate?

A. Responding to a question about his "resolve" in future terrorist incidents and the criticisms against him for failing to act in the case against hijackers, Mr. Reagan said, "Our problem is that the past has not been a lack of will."

He said there were a "number" of problems, "such as the terrible tragedy with the marines, the perpetrators of the act went up with the bomb, they were suicidally."

Q. How do you retaliate?

A. He was referring to the bombing of the United States Marines barracks in Beirut in October 1983 in which 241 American marines were killed.

"The other thing," Mr. Reagan continued, "is in a number of incidents (to) was at stake."

retaliate would simply be an act of violence without any knowledge that you were striking the perpetrators of the deed, which might be attacking many innocent people.

That has been our great problem with terrorism. But here was a clear-cut case, in which we could lay our hands on the terrorists.

Q. But since you know that these were the criminals and since you knew there were not innocent people around, were you prepared to fire? Were you prepared to shoot that plane down?

A. This, again, is one of those questions that I'm not going to answer. That's for them to go to bed every

night wondering.

#### Extradition of Hijackers

Q. Mr. President, on extradition, will you press to extradite the terrorists to the United States if the Italians do give them what you consider to be justice, knowing that there is no capital punishment in Italy?

A. I think this is a proper thing to do because — I'm not a lawyer and I don't intend to get into too many legal areas where I might be caught short, but it is my intent to be tried in both countries. And in the United States, they would be tried for murder, where in Italy they will probably be tried on the basis of piracy because of the taking over of the Italian vessel. So this is why we have put in a request for extradition.

#### Trial in Italy

Q. Well, do you want two trials or will you be satisfied if the Italians give them, say, a long prison sentence?

A. That remains to be decided as to how far we go or as to how far we pursue this. What we want is justice done.

Q. Does that mean death to the hijackers?

A. Well, I'm just going to say "justice done."

#### Disagreement With Craxi

Q. Mr. President, there were reports that there had been reports that there was a disagreement between yourself and Prime Minister Craxi about the disposition of these terrorists, whether to be tried, where to be tried, is there any truth to that?

A. He told me what his situation was with regard to them and I told him what ours was. And I told him that we would introduce an extradition request. He told me what their legal position was with regard to that, that it wasn't something that he could just give an opinion on itself, any more than I could on this if the situation was reversed. And, no, we had full cooperation.

But now I think if you are finished

I know there are many hands and I'm going to turn them all over to Bud McFarlane.

#### President's Nose

Q. Well, can you just talk about your nose, Mr. President? Forgive us, but what kind of finding the biopsy had, what level of cancer.

A. I thought I answered that. There was no cancer found and now, following after the surgery, following the minor operation, there is such as I say, I can stand before you proudly and say, "My nose is clean."

Q. What do you mean, cancer cells found yesterday? Or are you referring to the original spot?

A. No, there were a few found yesterday. That was, as I say, the doctor felt that there was additional work that he needed and wanted to do.

#### Other American Hostages

Q. Are you concerned that this might endanger the other six American hostages in the action taken yesterday? May I understand what they did?

A. I have no way of knowing what they're thinking. All I know is that we are still doing everything we can, and investigating every channel we can to try and get back the other six hostages.

#### Diagnosis on Nose

Q. Can you tell us whether it was basal cell or a melanoma, sir, can you tell us the diagnosis?

A. I am not a doctor. I'm not medical, either. But I did hear the term basal cell.

#### Relations With Egypt

Q. Are you angry at President Mubarak for his conduct in this whole affair?

A. No, as I say, we disagreed but we had too firm a relationship between our two countries, and there's too much at stake with regard to peace in the Middle East for us to let a single incident of one kind, or a disagreement of this kind, color that relationship.

#### Egyptian Statements

Q. Did he not lie about the whole matter? Did he not lie about where the hijackers went to the United States?

A. I have no way of knowing that, or know what facts he had.

Q. Did the Egyptians in any way assist you in this operation?

A. No, as I say, we did this all by our little selves.

#### People in Custody

Q. Mr. President, are you satisfied that all the perpetrators are in custody?

A. I don't think any one of us can answer that, we have no way of knowing that. We know that the four that were on the ship were the ones that perpetrated the crime. Very obviously, the rest of a splinter group from the P.L.O. had their own goals and aims, and how many were involved in planning or supporting such a mission of this kind we don't know.

#### Calling Klinghoffer Family

Q. Have you called the Klinghoffer family yet, sir?

A. That is what I'm going to do, to the office to do and you're making me late.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. On the Palestinians on that plane, one of them is said to be the mastermind, the murder experts for the P.L.O., who has organized many raids of this type.

A. All of these things I think will be answered in the investigation leading to prosecution.

Q. Thank you, sir.

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## The Hijackers' Fate: A Threat in Beirut

# Caller Says U.S. Will Pay If Harm Comes to Hijackers

By HIASAN A. HIZAJI  
Special to The New York Times

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Oct. 11 — An anonymous caller told a Western news agency here today that that the United States would "pay dearly" if the hijackers in Italian custody were harmed.

The caller, who said he was from the Palestine Liberation Front, the group linked to the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro, told the Italian Government to free the hijackers and two other Palestinians who had been taken into custody in Sicily with the hijackers. The ship was en route from Egypt to Sicily when it was intercepted over the Mediterranean by jet fighters of the United States Sixth Fleet and diverted to Italy today.

The call was made as many Palestinians in the Italian port of Messina Doria were showing intense interest in reports broadcast over the radio about what would happen to the six men seized aboard the Egyptian aircraft.

With the aircraft appearing to be carrying planes or ships, a shopkeeper who lives in Shatila said, "but the American action against our guerrillas has laid the United States interests and citizens open to retaliation."

"Pledge Has Been Broken"

The shopkeeper, 50 years old, who called himself Abu Mahmoud, said he had been given a word of honor that they would be assured a safe passage to their destination. "The pledge has been broken," he said, adding that the Americans are victims of broken promises."

In the nearby Sabra district, an armed man behind an earthen barricade was listening to a commercial radio station that radioed the diversion of the Palestinians to Italy "is bound to cause more tension not only between America and the Palestine Liberation Organization but between Egypt and the United States as well."

The gunman, who said his name was Bial, said, "Perhaps this will give Egypt and the rest of the Arabs a lesson never to trust the Americans."

The caller, who was under the cover of the Palestine National Liberation Front, a grouping of six guerrilla organizations that are based in Damascus and oppose the P.L.O. chairman, Yasir Arafat.

One of these organizations is a London-based faction of the Palestine Liberation Front that is led by Talaat Abu Ghoush and is allied with Syria. The hijackers have been reported to have links to a rival faction of the Palestine Liberation Front that is based in Tunis.

The call was made with Mr. Abu Ghoush, also known as Abu Abbas, who is the spokesman for the P.L.O. and was held captive in Italy.

"Backing for Arafat."

Mr. Arafat is known to have wide backing among the estimated 450,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, about half of whom are in Beirut, the capital, and in Beirut and other parts of the country.

Representatives of the main guerrilla organizations are believed to have established a front office in the Moslem section of the capital in the last few years since most Palestinian guerrillas were forced to leave the country under



Associated Press  
SECURITY PRECAUTION: U.S. soldiers inspecting a car at entrance to military airbase in Sigonella, Sicily, as security was increased there after diversion of plane carrying hijackers.

## Egyptian Airliner Heads for Rome

By HENRY KAMM  
Special to The New York Times

SIGONELLA, Sicily, Oct. 11 — The Egyptian airliner forced by American fighter planes to land at this Italian-American air base shortly after last night took off tonight, almost 24 hours after it landed, a spokesman said.

Detention in Italy would make Mr. Abbas, the most senior Palestinian guerrilla official ever to be captured by a foreign country.

Arab officials and analysts have said the arrest could generate wide anger among Palestinians, however unpopular Mr. Abbas may be among some Palestinians and other Arabs.

### U.S. Hostages Cited

A Lebanese official did not want to be identified and said, "We will wake up one day and learn that the Palestinians had taken Italian or American hostages and asked to exchange them for those seized on the Egyptian aircraft."

The spokesman said, "I wonder how this episode would affect the Americans already held."

He was alluding to six United States citizens who are believed to be held as hostages by the Egyptian guerrilla group known as the Islamic Holy War. They have after being captured in West Beirut in the last two years. Earlier this month, Islamic Holy War issued a statement to the press here saying that it had "executed" a U.S. citizen, William Buckley, a political officer with the United States Embassy.

The statement said he had been killed to avenge the lives of Palestinians and Tunisians who died in the Islamic Holy War's attack on the headquarters in Tunis on Oct. 1. The Islamic Holy War group accused the United States of complicity in the Israeli attack.

Viewed at a distance of more than 1,000 feet, it was parked in a remote corner of the field, in an area said to be restricted to Italian use.

There was no suggestion that anyone but Italian officials had had access to the hijackers since the American planes forced the Egyptian jetliner down in Italy.

Aboard were, according to state television, two officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization, as well as Egyptian diplomats and armed Egyptian security agents, all of whom accompanied the hijackers. The Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro on their flight from Egypt. The Italian Government considers them important witnesses in its judicial inquiry.

Unidentified Italian officials at the Sigonella air base reported by state television to have said that the hijackers themselves were transferred late tonight from military custody on the base to civilian judicial authorities. The most likely authority would be the investigating magistrate's office in the nearby city of Siracusa.

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The carrier-based American fighter planes that intercepted the jetliner on its flight from Cairo to its supposed destination of Tunis were assumed to have returned to the aircraft carrier Saratoga immediately on completion of their mission.

**Tight Security**

All day, tight security and a complete news blackout made the airbase a place of mystery and rumor, for a constantly flowing flow of reporters and television teams and ordinary citizens. Italian and American officials and the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro on their flight from Egypt. The Italian Government considers them important witnesses in its judicial inquiry.

For the second day of a standstill at the confines of the airfield, about 12 miles from Catania on the east coast of Sicily, the white Boeing 737 bearing the red and gold stripes of the Egyptian national airline could be

seen at a distance of more than 1,000 feet, it was parked in a remote corner of the field, in an area said to be restricted to Italian use.

There was no suggestion that anyone but Italian officials had had access to the hijackers since the American planes forced the Egyptian jetliner down in Italy.

The American and Italian governments had been back and forth, alternating between the base and the Italian and civilian police blocked roads ringing it, allowing no observation of activity inside.

Members of the Public Information staff of the American Forces based here referred all questions to the Defense Department, volunteering as the only information they were authorized to disclose the telephone number of the Pentagon's public affairs office. Questions on the functions and meaning of the air base, they said, disclosure no more than that it was a naval installation.

Sigonella is a base under North Atlantic Treaty Organization command consisting of separate American and Italian installations. About 5,000 members of the American military, as well as their dependents, are stationed here. More than 1,000 civilian employees of the Defense Department also work at the base.

The heavy American presence is accompanied by the rows of car sales agencies, insurance offices, involving companies and places of entertainment with American names and accents on the base. It has been considered a smattering of English on Catania's shopkeepers and taxi drivers.

## BOMB KILLS LEADER OF U.S. ARAB GROUP

Seven Injured in Explosion at Offices on West Coast — J.D.L. Praises Action

SANTA ANA, Calif., Oct. 11 (UPI) — A bomb demolished the offices of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee today, killing the organization's regional executive director and injuring seven others.

The explosion at 4 A.M. blew out windows on the second story of the three-story office building, scattering glass on the sidewalk and in the street, Fire Chief John Odeh said.

Mr. Odeh, regional director of the Arab group, died in surgery about 11:30 A.M. at Western Medical Center. Mr. Odeh, a resident of Orange, was 37 years old. The seven people were injured were treated and released.

No one claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The Arab-American committee is a Washington-based civil rights organization founded in 1980 to combat racial stereotypes that Americans of Arab descent say have led to discrimination against them.

### Threats Treated Not Uncommon

Joseph Halek, publisher of the Glendale-based *New Circle* magazine, which publishes in the Arab-American affairs, said it was not uncommon for the organization to receive threats.

"You have people that don't want others to talk and they threaten them," he said.

The Jewish Defense League, often at odds with the group, denied responsibility for the bombing but praised the action.

Irvin Rubin, chairman of the J.D.L., said Mr. Odeh had been interviewed on television and radio. Leon Klinghoffer, a 68-year-old tourist from New York City who was held hostage aboard the hijacked ship Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean, Israel has held the hijackers in the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Odeh appeared on television to whitewash the P.L.O. murder of Klinghoffer," Mr. Rubin said. "No few or American should shed one tear for the destruction of a P.L.O. front in Santa Ana or anywhere else in the world."

### Adjacent Buildings Evacuated

The police evacuated buildings on both sides of the office building that was bombed, and demolition experts searched for more bombs.

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were investigating the explosion, said John Hoos, an F.B.I. spokesman.

Dino Tunos, a carpenter working in the building next door, said he heard the blast and ran into the building to help the victims.

"When I ran in, I saw the whole place was torn apart," Mr. Tunos said. "When I looked at it, I realized there was an explosion and we started getting everyone out."

## Italy More Likely Than U.S. to Try Suspects in Cruise Vessel

By STUART TAYLOR Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 — Officials here and in Italy said today that the four hijackers apprehended in an American cruise ship in an Italian cruise ship would most likely be tried in Italy rather than the United States.

Later today, two Administration officials and another source said a joint investigation was under way to determine what the matter was what would be done with two Palestinian who were on the plane taken to Italy along with the four hijackers.

One of the two is reported to be Abu Abbas, a top official of the Palestine Liberation Organization who heads a faction of the Palestine Liberation Front that supports Yasir Arafat. P.L.O. officials and radio identified the other as Hanan al-Hassan, a senior aide to Mr. Arafat, but that report was disputed and could not be confirmed.

United States officials suspect that the hijackers who boarded the ship were acting under Abu Abbas' orders, although their original mission was not to hijack the ship but to disrupt talks between Italy and carry out a terrorist attack there.

Italy's Foreign Minister was reportedly here said today that the two would probably be released. Officials

here were discussing whether to seek extradition of Abu Abbas and the other man, along with the four hijackers, and how to urge Italy to hold them for trial.

"We are prepared to try to convince them that there is enough evidence giving a pretty good indication that he had a role and could justify holding him," said a Justice Department official said of Abu Abbas.

Another official said "the real question here is whether we put a full court martial trial or a simple criminal trial and there was some concern that the Italians, who have been on friendly terms with the P.L.O., might not aggressively pursue evidence implicating an official so close to Mr. Arafat."

But more senior Justice Department officials said they had a good working relationship with and confidence in Italian authorities.

**Obstacles to Extradition**

Italian officials said that they wanted to prosecute the hijackers and were unlikely to extradite them. Government officials said there were legal obstacles to obtaining extradition, especially after a trial in Italy.

One obstacle is a provision in the extradition treaty between the two countries that would bar Italy from extraditing the hijackers after they had been convicted or acquitted in Italy "for the

happens to the plane or to one of the two individuals," the official said, "but we care very much about the other." Abu Abbas' involvement in the plot to kidnap the plane would be considered, however, about whether the evidence implicating Abu Abbas in crime by the hijackers was solid enough to support criminal charges and an extradition request.

President Reagan said the four hijackers would be tried in both countries and he and other officials said they would press for extradition of the hijackers from Italy, which now holds them. But Mr. Reagan added that "what we want is justice done."

He left the implication, confirmed by other officials, that the United States would not object if Italy tries them first.

### Pressure From Egypt

The pressure was complicated by the fact that while the Egyptian plane and the two Palestinians who accompanied it were en route to Italy, the hijacked ship was still in Egypt, and as one official put it "Egypt is apparently putting a lot of pressure" for release of the two Palestinians.

"We frankly don't care much what

happens to the plane or to one of the two individuals," the official said, "but we care very much about the other." Abu Abbas' involvement in the plot to kidnap the plane would be considered, however, about whether the evidence implicating Abu Abbas in crime by the hijackers was solid enough to support criminal charges and an extradition request.

Government lawyers said it was unclear whether this provision would allow room for Italy to try the hijackers for piracy and murder, for example, and then extradite them to the United States for trial on the separate charge of hostage-taking.

A statement issued by the Justice Department said: "Whether the suspect would eventually be tried in the United States, or in Italy, or sequentially in both countries will depend on legal matters that are yet to be resolved. At present, all options are being pursued."

Charges in Italy

The prosecutor's office in Genoa, Italy, where the ship began its cruise, charged four Palestinians today with murder, kidnapping, hijacking the ship and possession of arms and explosives, according to news reports from Genoa.

Mr. Speaks said this afternoon that the trial would be held in Genoa "as soon as possible." But a Justice Department official said this afternoon that the necessary groundwork, including gathering of evidence, probably could not be completed today.

And, contrary to a statement by Mr. Reagan Thursday that the hijackers would face "capital punishment" here,

officials said the Federal death penalty is limited to killings aboard hijacked airplanes — not hijacked ships — in certain circumstances.

Thus, officials said, the fact that Italian law and the extradition treaty would bar extradition to the United States of a defendant who might face execution here is irrelevant to the case.

### U.S. Team Heads for Sicily

One department official said that a Criminal Division lawyer, Kurt W. Schaeffer, and a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent were headed for Sicily to do some of the investigative work necessary to support a formal extradition request.

He said he could not be sure how soon such a formal request, which must be supported by evidence and evidence to establish the identities of the hostage-takers and other key facts, could be ready. United States officials have urged Italy's Government informally to extradite the hijackers.

Aside from the law against hostage-taking, the Justice Department said, "any possible offense under consideration include piracy under the law of nations" and conspiracy to commit a Federal crime. The penalty for piracy is life imprisonment, and that for conspiracy is five years.

## Standoff Reported Between Italy and Egypt on P.L.O. Escorts

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 — Reagan Administration officials said today that an angry standoff had taken place at the Sicily air base between Italian and Egyptian officials over the fate of two Palestinian reporters who had been held by the four hijackers.

This new complication developed after United States officials reluctantly agreed to let the four hijackers be tried in Italy for their act of piracy and the killing of an American tourist. In Washington, Justice Department officials were examining measures to limit the extent of the trial of the two Palestinian reporters being held by the Egyptian plane.

According to the officials, one of the two is Mohammed Abbas, also known as Abu Ghoush, a senior official of the Palestine Liberation Front that car-

ried out the hijacking on Monday of the Italian cruise ship, the Achille Lauro. The other is an unnamed Palestinian official of the Palestine Liberation Organization official.

With the United States urging the two countries to take a stand, the two sides agreed to let the plane land in Sicily at the Sigonella air base, the United States did not know that the two Palestinian officials were held by the hijackers.

This added a new complication. Earlier, the United States had agreed to allow the Italian to take the plane to Sicily, but the Italian had not yet done so.

Justice Department officials said that the two sides were arguing over the possibility of trying to extradite Mr. Abbas, who is accused of masterminding many terrorist acts in Israel, as well as directing the seizure of the Achille Lauro, in which Leon Klinghoffer, a

5-year-old New York resident, was killed.

When the Egyptian plane landed Thursday night, the Egyptian officials aboard the 737 agreed to turn over the plane to the Italian authorities. The Italian officials refused to turn it over to the hijackers.

As a result, the two Palestinians and the Egyptians remained on the plane throughout the night into today in what amounts to a stand-off, the officials said.

There were reports late today that the Egyptian plane was flying to Rome.

The whole affair is threatening to become another divisive issue between the United States and both Italy and Egypt.

United States officials said.

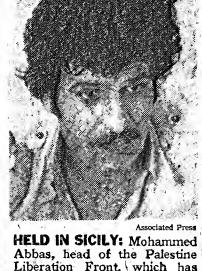
But the Italians, who found themselves suddenly with the hijackers and the two Palestinian representatives, have not seemed enthusiastic about detaining the latter two, American officials said.

### The Original Plan

In discussing the interception, Administration officials said that the original plan was for the four hijackers to be transported almost immediately from Italy to the United States to stand trial here.

They said that a United States Air Force transport was at the Sigonella air base in Sicily ready to take the gun-

men to the United States. The United States Air Force transport was at the Sigonella air base in Sicily ready to take the gun-



Associated Press  
HELD IN SICILY: Mohammed Abbas, head of the Palestine Liberation Front, which has been tied to hijacking.



## News Conference: Trade Legislation

Continued From Preceding Page

GATT, the general tariff program, to join with us in another round of trade talks to again eliminate whatever holdovers there are of discrimination against someone else's products getting into their country or subsidizing sale at less than production cost in other countries. These things we'll do and we'll do vigorously.

But just plain protectionism, let me point out another problem that no one has considered: You take one product of that kind, and you look at a list of countries and then you find out we're the biggest exporter in the world, and you find out that in some of the countries if we punish them for that one product, we happen to have a trade surplus in that country. And how can they stand by on the one thing they're exporting successfully and then say but we're buying more from you than we're selling in your country. So, there just is no excuse for protectionism that is simply based on legitimate competition and curbing that competition.

A. Well again, protectionism is a two-way street. And there is no way that you can try to protect and shield one industry that seems to be having these competitive problems without exposing others. No one ever looks

over their shoulder to see who lost their job because of protectionism. We do know the history of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff and what it did, there were over a thousand economists that sought the President out at the time and begged him to veto that bill.

But in this one with a single industry, if there is an unfairness and we've already made that plain and made it evident, we are going, if they're taking advantage in some way in another country, competing unfairly with us, we're going to take action on those items. For almost two years now, I have been begging our allies and trading partners in the GATT, the general tariff program, to join with us in another round of trade talks to again eliminate whatever holdovers there are of discrimination against someone else's products getting into their country or subsidizing sale at less than production cost in other countries. These things we'll do and we'll do vigorously.

But just plain protectionism, let me point out another problem that no one has considered: You take one product of that kind, and you look at a list of countries and then you find out we're the biggest exporter in the world, and you find out that in some of the countries if we punish them for that one product, we happen to have a trade

surplus in that country. And how can they stand by on the one thing they're exporting successfully and then say but we're buying more from you than we're selling in your country. So, there just is no excuse for protectionism that is simply based on legitimate competition and curbing that competition.

### Legislation on Trade

Q. Mr. President, if the current bills which are on the Hill now seeking sweeping trade protectionism were enacted, do you foresee somewhat of a re-enactment of Smoot-Hawley which led to the Depression or certainly deepened it -- do you feel there is a cause and effect there?

A. I don't know, I think there are probably some individuals that haven't learned the lesson or haven't lived long enough to have been around when the Great Depression was on. That's one of the advantages of being a kid my age.

Q. Do you think the rose will be the national flower?

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